Rome Wed Jan.y 13 1864

My dear Marcia

At last the moment comes for a pleasant letter to tell you & assure you that I have been able to arrange my affairs, so that I can send you a £5 note every 3 months without fail - This at least - but I have the good hope of sending more than that sum but at this moment cannot say how much -

After the most rigid saving I have been able to pay all the vast imperative debt incurred by my dear wifes death at Marseilles - but now I am rewarded for lately I have been appointed Consul for all Italy, with the consent of

Cardinal Antonelli as well as Earl Russell, this is "a feather in my cap" for you can have no idea how my two enemies try to pull me down "by hook or by crook" & the concern it is to me at times — Yet as I have great discretion I seem to always defeat them, & beg you not to care about ill natured things you may chance to see in papers against me — I still hold my ground firmer than ever

You are right in your note in supposing that my daughter Eleanor is now with me & also Walter till the end of the month

they have turned my house out of window
& twisted me round their little fingers - all
my bachelor tranquility is gone for ever
yet I dare say I shall soon be "up too" the
new state of things

My painting now languishes as I have
so much company to receive & then the
evil. qualities have made [illegible] 90 years old
I hope dear Tom had no difficulty in
receiving the £5 from Mr F. B. Alston
as I could not get a note I had no
other alternative & if it was all
right & Tom does not mind the trouble
I will prefer to adopt this plan for the
future — As regards the Italian Consulate
I do not yet know what sum it will bring
me

was not good air) that I gave it up & am
still using old Poli & Eleanor hiring mine
Lady P.s we get on very well – I take her out
to all the balls, sometimes 2 soirees hoping
she will soon get tired of them like Nice
Party cooks appreciate with the sweets in excess
Marcia told me you were not quite well so
I trust this may find jolly Devon skating!!
I would amuse you by the variety of
my vocations – for the Pope's bull has often
to be shouldered by my heretical heel –
Nothing can be better than my standing
with all the Papal ministers, particularly
Cardinal Antonelli who grant me everything
I ask – & have just now granted a private
theatre to my countrymen in Lent – Nice
crowd is very great here 2 morning services
at Church! each of 3 or 400 persons
Remember me most kindly to your excellent wife
& your charming daughters & send me a
line to F. O. Your affectionate Joe
P.S. My Son Walter has been here lately &
brought his sister & we made a nice party &
enjoyed ourselves much